



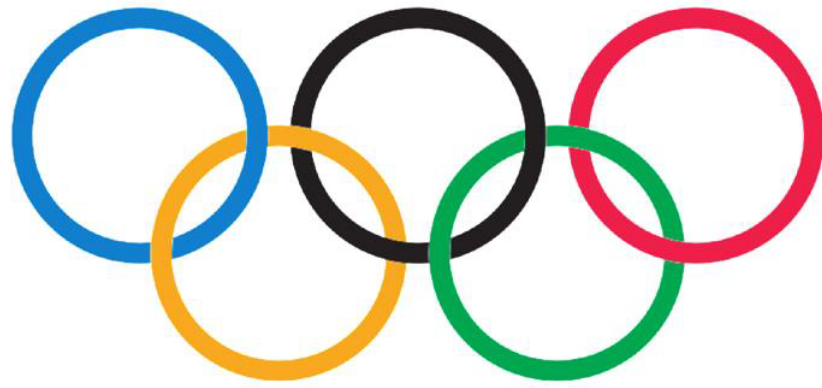
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MUNUC – SFLS Conference

上海外国语大学附属外国语学校
芝加哥大学国际中学生模拟联合国大会

International Olympic Committee (IOC)





INTERNATIONAL
OLYMPIC
COMMITTEE

International Olympic
Committee (IOC)

MUNUC-SFLS 2023



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CHAIR LETTER

Hi everyone!

My name is Elliot Lin, and I'm beyond excited to welcome you to MUNUC-SFLS 2023 and the IOC. I am a fourth year Economics and Psychology double major with an English Literature/Creative Writing minor at the University of Chicago, and I will be serving as your Chair during the course of this weekend. At the collegiate level, I have been an Assistant Chair for Arnold Schwarzenegger's Governorship, and a Crisis Director for both Louis XIV's Cabinet and Major League Baseball. In terms of high school conferences, I was a moderator for the Committee on the Status of Women during MUNUC 35 last year. Beyond staffing, I am one of the co-presidents of the competitive MUN team at UChicago—so you can say that I am pretty embroiled in the MUN-iverse during my spare time. Outside of MUN, I work as a research assistant in the Center for Decision Research, mostly focused on motivation and goal-related psychology, serve as a student assistant in the College Programming and Orientation Office, and work as a Writing Tutor for UChicago's infamous core classes.

If you know me, you will know that sports of all kinds is one of my biggest passions outside of the academic (and MUN) realm, so the topic of this committee is something that is pretty near and dear to my heart. My expectations are that all delegates take the information presented in this background guide seriously, and engage with the topic that is laid out for you. I do not expect you to strictly adhere to your country's positions, rather, use those as a jumping off point for policy ideas you would like to enact or are interested in. This generally makes for more varied debate, and allows for more multitudes of perspectives.

When discussing the viabilities of different locations, we ask that you refrain from using outdated rhetoric that references a country's economic status (e.g. third world countries), and to be careful about your rhetoric surrounding issues like safety and the political landscapes of each nation. We also ask that each and every one of you treat each other with respect. Collaboration and diplomacy is something that we want to emphasize over the course of committee, and no discrimination of any

sort will be tolerated under any circumstance. If you have questions about what is appropriate at any point, please feel free to ask me or another member of your dais.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to reach me at eclin@uchicago.edu. I look forwards to meeting all of you on committee!

Best,

Elliot Lin

eclin@uchicago.edu

HISTORY OF THE COMMITTEE

Established in 1894, the International Olympics Committee (IOC) is a non-governmental, not-for-profit sport organization.¹ The organization is tasked with the mission of “[promoting] Olympism throughout the world and [leading] the Olympic Movement.”² The key values of Olympism have evolved over the years since they were first written down in the Olympic Charter. As of now, Olympism represents “excellence, friendship and respect.”³ Together, these values form the foundation of the Olympic Movement which aims to build a better world through the education and practice of sport.⁴ As is hinted in its mission, the main responsibilities of the IOC go beyond overseeing the celebration of the Olympic Games, although this is definitely one of the most important tasks. Other key areas of the IOC's job include supporting other sport organizations, facilitating the development of sport activities that abide by Olympism, promoting social justice and equity through sport, and strengthening sport integrity.⁵

¹ “International Olympic Committee - History, Principles & Financing,” International Olympic Committee, November 10, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/overview>.

² “International Olympic Committee - History, Principles & Financing,” International Olympic Committee, October 6, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/mission>.

³ “International Olympic Committee - History, Principles & Financing,” International Olympic Committee, October 6, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-values>.

⁴ “Olympic Movement - People Inspired by the Values of Olympism,” International Olympic Committee, November 25, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-movement>.

⁵ “International Olympic Committee - History, Principles & Financing,” International Olympic Committee, November 10, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/overview>.

TOPIC: PROPOSING HOST COUNTRY CRITERIA

Statement of the Problem

Who should get to host the Olympic Games? Since the first modern Olympics in 1896, twenty-three different countries have hosted the Olympics, nine of whom have hosted both Summer and Winter Games.⁶ To be granted the privilege of hosting the games is a great honor and provides nations with a unique opportunity to showcase their country and culture, as well reap potential economic and social benefits. On the other hand, the Olympics can also be a tremendous burden for the host nation, and if mismanaged, a logistical nightmare. It is the job of the International Olympic Committee to choose a country that is up to the task and worthy of this prestigious opportunity. Your task as delegates is to improve upon the existing criteria for potential host nations so that the Olympics can logistically be the best event possible while continuing to be a celebration of athleticism and international cooperation.

Existing Selection Process

The IOC Session, the most powerful of all IOC organs, meets once a year to discuss and vote on the most pressing and important issues facing the Olympic Games. It is at the Session where host cities are chosen. Each Session member (with the exception of the member from the candidate nation) has one vote, cast by a secret ballot. If multiple cities are in contention, there are multiple rounds of voting in which the city with the fewest votes is eliminated each round until one city has a majority of votes.⁷

Each country may only put forward one city per session, decided upon by that country's National Olympic Committee. The IOC Executive Board then creates Future Host Commissions (FHC). These commissioners draft reports on interested host cities, including information on economic,

⁶ Robert Wood, "Olympic Games Host Countries," Topend Sports Website, 2010, <https://www.topendsports.com/events/summer/hosts/list-countries.htm>, accessed 6/14/2021

⁷ "Who chooses the host for future Olympic Games," International Olympic Committee, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/faq/roles-and-responsibilities-of-the-ioc-and-its-partners/who-chooses-the-host-for-future-olympic-games>, accessed 6/14/2

geographic, and societal considerations. Executive Board members review these reports and recommendations made by the FHC. If the Executive Board endorses the host, its report and recommendations are submitted to the Session to be voted upon.⁸

Economic Concerns

Hosting the Olympics can be an economic double-edged sword. On the one hand, it can provide nations with a significant economic boost thanks to the increase in the service sector and influx of tourists. On the other hand, the Olympics can be a massive strain on a country’s economy. The host country must finance the construction of athletic venues not already existing in or near the host city, the Olympic Village, the Opening Ceremonies spectacle, and the infrastructure necessary to manage the flood of spectators.

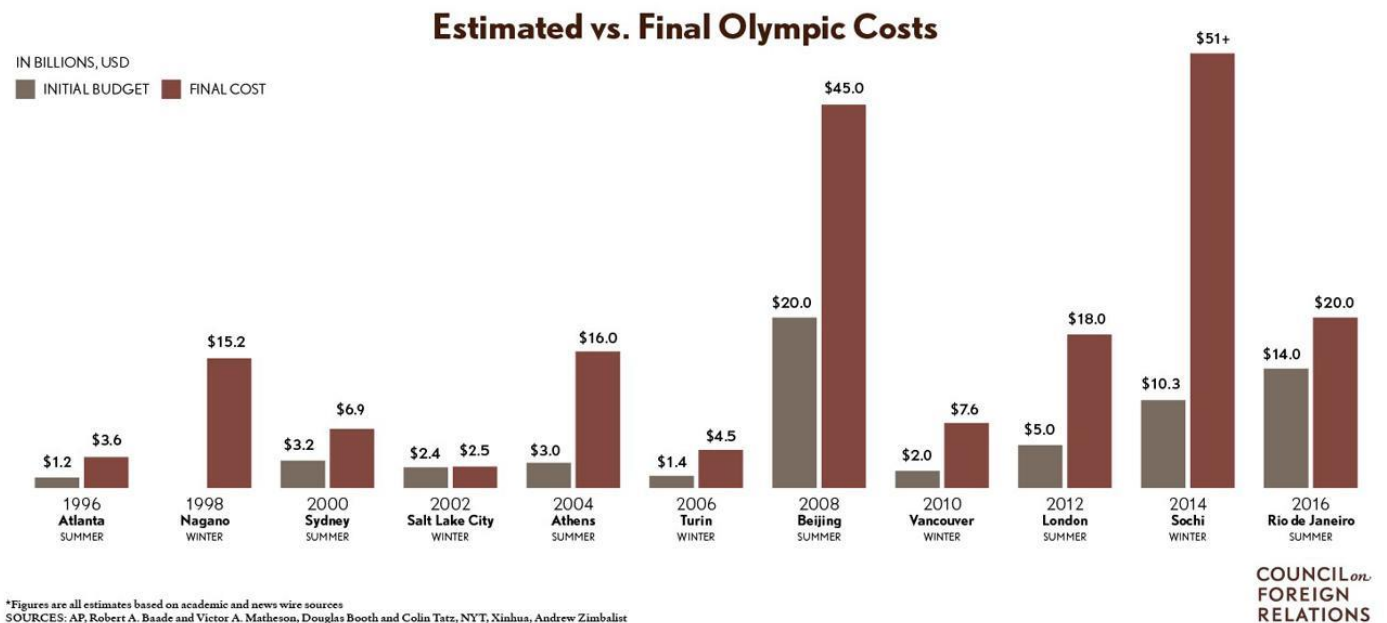


Figure: Estimated vs. Final Olympic Costs from 1996-2016⁹

The privilege of hosting an Olympics comes with a hefty price tag. Beijing 2008 cost \$45 billion, Sochi 2014 cost \$50 billion, and Pyeongchang 2018 cost \$13 billion (\$6 billion more than was initially

⁸ “Olympic Charter” 7/17/2020, https://stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/General/EN-Olympic-Charter.pdf#_ga=2.217638933.2063900527.1572851862-1492005220.1568367490,70-72

⁹ James McBride, “The Economics of Hosting the Olympic Games,” Council on Foreign Relations, 1/19/2018

projected).¹⁰ By an average of 172%, every Olympic Games, both summer and winter, has been over-budget since 1960. These costs range from 22 million USD to 21.9 billion USD.¹¹

To host an Olympic Games is to gamble that costs incurred during preparation will be offset by the economic boost that comes from tourism, broadcasting deals, sponsorships, and ticket sales. From that amount, the IOC retains over half of television revenue, which makes up the most sizable portion of the generated profits. Unfortunately, cities generally lose money by hosting the Olympics. While economic success is dependent on a number of factors, such as existing infrastructure and access to natural resources, more often than not, cities are left with a deficit. In fact, the last profitable Games was Los Angeles 1984.¹²

As a result, fewer and fewer countries have made bids for the Games. In 2002 and 2004, there were nine and eleven bids, respectively. The 2022 Games had only two bids, and the 2024 Games had three.¹³ Clearly, economic limitations act as a barrier for diversity in the variety of host cities. Delegates must figure out how to balance the practical elements of financing the Olympics, while ensuring that hosting really is an international activity and not limited to only a select few number of countries. Furthermore, delegates should consider which nations have historically expressed a desire to host the Olympics, as well as those who would like to host in the future, and to what extent criteria should be tailored towards those countries. How can we make the Olympics inclusive, while still ensuring that they are run effectively and efficiently and not inadvertently hurting host nations that cannot cover the cost?

Environmental Concerns

Another important factor that should be considered when granting a city the honor of hosting the Olympics is how the local environment will be impacted. Any large-scale construction project will

¹⁰ James McBride, "The Economics of Hosting the Olympic Games," Council on Foreign Relations, 1/19/2018

¹¹ Nygaard, Gjersing Nielsen, "The Unpredictable Financial Costs of Hosting the Olympic Games," Play the Game, 2/23/2021 https://www.playthegame.org/news/comments/2021/1014_the-unpredictable-financial-costs-of-hosting-the-olympic-games/

¹² Gus Mojica "The 1984 Olympics Marks the Last Time the Games Were Profitable," Sportscasting, 4/7/2020 <https://www.sportscasting.com/the-1984-summer-olympics-marks-the-last-time-the-games-were-profitable/>

¹³ "Why Hosting the Olympics Isn't Worth it Anymore," Business Insider, 2/5/2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obXJGZgR1BU>

inevitably result in some environmental costs, but these should be minimized wherever possible. The IOC is a staunch supporter of sustainability and considers it an important element of the Olympic Movement. The Olympic Movement is defined as, “the concerted, organized, universal and permanent action, carried out under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all individuals and entities who are inspired by the values of Olympism.”¹⁴

There are many factors that should be taken into account when thinking about the Olympics and their environmental impact. For example, constructing stadiums and arenas tends to be far more environmentally costly than making adjustments to pre-existing structures. If construction does need to be done, locations should be chosen carefully so that they can minimize deforestation and the disruption of ecosystems. The country should also demonstrate that they can sustainably power the venues and Olympic Village and responsibly dispose of waste. Furthermore, countries should have plans for their venues after the Games are over. In Beijing after the 2008 Games, the Bird’s Nest stadium continues to attract tourists and will be “recycled” for the 2022 Games’ Opening and Closing ceremonies, as will the Water Cube aquatics center. But other structures like the beach volleyball stadium, BMX track, and white water rapid track have been overrun with weeds and garbage.¹⁵

Human Rights

The final and perhaps most important element that should be taken into consideration when deciding which city will host the Olympics is human rights. It would be completely contrary to the spirit of the Olympics to bestow the honor of hosting upon a nation that is known to be violating the rights of its citizens. As a part of the Olympic Movement, the IOC is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights around the world, as stated in the Olympic Charter and IOC Code of Ethics. The IOC has continued this work through the creation of a Supplier Code to ensure that it partners with ethical businesses. Furthermore, the IOC commissions leading human rights experts to develop reports on the subject.

¹⁴ “Olympic Movement,” IOC, <https://olympics.com/ioc/olympic-movement>

¹⁵ Francesca Street, “Beijing’s Eerie Abandoned Olympic Venues,” CNN, 8/15/2018, <https://www.cnn.com/travel/article/beijing-abandoned-olympic-venues/index.html>

In 2017, the IOC made changes to the “Operational Requirements” of host cities to ensure that the games are hosted in countries that are not only without major human rights violations, but committed to the development and further protection of human rights. Nations who do not meet this criteria will not be selected to host the Games. It is crucial that the IOC works to not only maintain, but improve its reputation as representing the best of humanity both in Session and in competition. These expectations extend to each and every person, from individual athletes to top officials in IOC boardrooms.¹⁶

¹⁶ “Protection and Respect of Human Rights,” International Olympic Committee, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/human-rights>

History of the Problem

The IOC has, in the past, made some controversial decisions regarding their choices for host city for the Olympic Games. The Munich Olympics in 1936 at the time of the rise of Nazi Germany, comes to mind. In 1980, the Soviet Union hosted the Summer Olympics in Moscow at the height of the Cold War. This resulted in 65 countries and regions boycotting the Games, including the United States, in protest over the Soviet Union's presence in Afghanistan.

There are a wide array of reasons as to why a potential host city may be considered controversial or objectionable in the eyes of other nations. These reasons range from purely logistical concerns to complex political agendas. For our purposes, we will largely be exploring and discussing three areas of consideration: economic, environmental, and humanitarian.

Economic Concerns

Hosting the Olympic Games is a herculean feat. Host cities are required to not only provide the athletic complexes in which athletes will compete, but organize and perform Opening and Closing Ceremonies, add to and augment existing infrastructure such as airports, roads, and railways to handle the influx of tourists, house and feed athletes, and implement measures to ensure the safety of both athletes and spectators. All of this requires a very large amount of money and few nation's economies are strong enough to carry out this task without incurring economic fallout.

According to economists, the Olympic Village can cost \$3 billion, media facilities \$1 billion, and that is just the tip of the iceberg. Maintaining stadiums can cost around \$30 million each year. Yet, many cities have let these venues fall into disrepair, decreasing property value. Bidding alone can cost a small fortune. In a bid for the 2016 Olympics, Chicago spent an estimated \$100 million on their campaign. Furthermore, the majority of profits come from network deals, but in recent years, the IOC has been taking larger and larger percentages from these media deals. What was once about a 4% take from revenues in the 1990s, was up to 70% at the Rio de Janeiro Games.¹⁷

¹⁷ "Why Hosting the Olympics Isn't Worth it Anymore," Business Insider, 2/5/2018, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=obXJGZgR1BU>

While it is not the responsibility of the IOC to tell cities how to spend their money regarding the Olympics, it is vital that the IOC chooses hosts that demonstrate that they can handle the costs of hosting, ensure the quality of the Games, and preserve their economy to the point where their own citizens are not burdened with the repercussions of poor planning.

By examining the problems that have arisen in the planning of prior Olympics, we can better determine how to award Games going forward. The Rio de Janeiro Games in 2016 is largely considered to be one of the most economically and logistically fraught Games in recent history. At the time, Brazil was facing one of the worst economic recessions since the 1990s. Simultaneously, the government was rife with fraud and money-laundering, resulting in Brazilian president Dilma Rousseff being stripped of her powers after impeachment.¹⁸ Carlos Nuzman, head of the Brazilian Olympic Committee was also arrested amid money-laundering charges.¹⁹



Figure: Rio 2016 Olympics Logo²⁰

Security also became an area of great concern, with Mayor Eduardo Paes stating that Rio has had “big issues” heightening security.²¹ Homicides reached 2,036 in the first four months of 2016,

¹⁸ Ray, Michael and Wallenfeldt, Jeff, "Dilma Rousseff". Encyclopedia Britannica, 10 Dec. 2020, <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Dilma-Rousseff>. Accessed 25 June 2021.

¹⁹ Miguel Hernandez, "Nuzman Expecting Acquittal in Trial," *Around the Rings*, 10/2/20, http://aroundtherings.com/site/A__101149/Title__Nuzman-Expecting-Acquittal-in-Trial/292/Articles

²⁰ Rio 2016 Logo. Retrieved from Forbes.com.

²¹ "Rio Mayor Promises Crackdown on Violence," *CBS News*, 10/19/2009, <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/rio-mayor-promises-crackdown-on-violence/>

compared to 1,818 in 2015.²² Members of the Australian Paralympic Team encountered a gunpoint robbery.²³ Australian rowing coaches were also robbed at knifepoint, and Australian and Greek athletes reported personal items stolen from their rooms in the Olympic Village.²⁴ As of June of 2016, Rio was still awaiting \$860 million that was supposed to be granted from the federal government for security improvements.²⁵

Another major economic concern from this Olympics was sanitary conditions in Rio. Guanabara Bay where sailing and windsurfing events took place was heavily polluted and only about 17% of Rio's sewage was treated before it seeped into the Bay. Paes stated that it was possible the city would not be able to reach its goal of 80% sewage treatment and that the projected goal at the time of the Olympics was 65%. Drug-resistant bacteria was also found in the Carioca River and said to be "1.7 million times the level of what would be considered hazardous on a Southern California beach."²⁶ The pools used for diving and water polo turned green and produced a sulfuric smell due to a lack of water treatment chemicals, causing eye irritation, burning, and discomfort²⁷. Finally, organizers were extremely behind schedule and there were reports of the Village being "unlivable" due to issues such as exposed wiring, blocked toilets, and leaking pipes.

While all Games are bound to have logistical hiccups, much of the organizational fiascos from the Rio Games can clearly be tied back to their weakened economy. In 2016, Brazil was in the midst of a

²² "Mutilated Body Parts Wash up on Beach next to Rio Olympics Volleyball Venue," The Independent, August 2, 2016, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/rio-olympics-2016-mutilated-body-parts-wash-up-next-to-volleyball-venue-on-copacabana-beach-a7110226.html>.

²³ "Greek official suffers \$11,000 theft and Australian rowing coaches robbed at knifepoint as Rio crime targets Olympians," Stuff, 8/8/2016 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/olympics/82914903/australian-olympic-rowing-coaches-robbed-at-knifepoint-as-rio-safety-fears-mount>

²⁴ "Greek official suffers \$11,000 theft and Australian rowing coaches robbed at knifepoint as Rio crime targets Olympians," Stuff, 8/8/2016 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/sport/olympics/82914903/australian-olympic-rowing-coaches-robbed-at-knifepoint-as-rio-safety-fears-mount>

²⁵ Mauricio Savarese, "Clashes rage in Rio as police try to capture drug trafficker," Associated Press, 6/29/2019 <https://web.archive.org/web/20160630222457/http://www.bigstory.ap.org/article/27c15bd608de4ecc868e8be4922b8d56/clashes-rage-rio-police-try-capture-drug-trafficker>

²⁶ "Rio Olympics waters '1.7 million' times above hazardous limits," Irish Times, 7/31/2015 <https://www.irishtimes.com/sport/other-sports/rio-olympics-waters-1-7-million-times-above-hazardous-levels-1.2303203>

²⁷ Sarah Lyall, "Another Pool Turns Green; Chemical Imbalance is Blamed," New York Times, 8/13/2016, https://www.nytimes.com/2016/08/11/sports/olympics/green-water-pool-rio-games.html?_r=0

recession, with GDP down 3.6% and unemployment up 11.8%.²⁸ To make any augmentations on such a large scale costs millions, if not billions of dollars, and would pose a challenge to even the strongest of economies. This combined with the rampant corruption in Brazil's government made it more difficult to improve the infrastructure, sanitation, and safety in preparation for the Olympics.

To be clear, these types of issues are not exclusive to Rio 2016, but this specific Olympics does serve as an excellent example of what can happen when the Olympics are hosted by a country that does not have its economic ducks in a row. To the Brazilians' credit, the event did largely come together in the end, but not without significant missteps and legitimate concerns. Furthermore, the Brazilian government failed to be able to pick up the tab they had run up, with the burden of the Olympics ultimately resting upon the Brazilian citizens. One year after the close of the Games, the Organizing Committee still owed creditors around \$40 million, with which the IOC declined to help. Contrary to the hope that the Olympics would help to revamp Rio, crime continued to spike in 2017 reaching the highest rates since 2009 and the state continued to be unable to pay teachers, police, and hospital workers.²⁹

Environmental Concerns

Another element that should be taken into consideration when developing criteria for prospective host cities is environmental considerations. The IOC is committed to the protection and preservation of the environment, as well as making the Games as sustainable as possible. In 2020, sustainability was established as one of the three pillars of the Olympic Agenda. Recognizing its responsibility within the international community, the IOC "focuses on infrastructure and natural sites, sourcing and resource management, mobility, workforce, and climate."³⁰ With that in mind, it is important that the Games are awarded to cities that can demonstrate that they can prepare and host in an environmentally friendly manner.

²⁸ "Preliminary Overview of the Economies of Latin America and the Caribbean," 2016, https://repositorio.cepal.org/bitstream/handle/11362/40826/1601259BP_Brazil_en.pdf

²⁹ Drehs, Wayne and Lajolo, Mariana, "After the Flame," ESPN, 8/10/17, https://www.espn.com/espn/feature/story/_/id/20292414/the-reality-post-olympic-rio

³⁰ "Sustainability," International Olympic Committee, 2021, <https://olympics.com/ioc/sustainability>

Historically, the IOC was not as environmentally minded as it is today and the green-ness of the Games was largely dependent upon the individual countries. This led to mixed results. Ahead of the 2008 Beijing Games, Beijing upgraded its sewage system and wastewater treatment.³¹ They also utilized rainwater collection and reuse systems for the Olympic Village. Additionally, regulations were put in place from November 2007 to September 2008 to improve air quality. Coal plants were required to decrease emissions, gasoline prices were increased, cement and concrete plants were closed, and vehicles alternated days on which they could be driven.³² These measures drastically reduced air pollution for the duration of their implementation. Unfortunately, after the Olympics, the measures were lifted and the air quality reverted to its previous state and many venues constructed for the Olympics now sit vacantly wasting away. Ideally, the Olympics would provide cities with the opportunity to implement lasting changes for the betterment of the environment.

The Sochi Olympics of 2014 were perhaps one of the least environmentally friendly Olympics to date. Beginning with the abolishment of a law preventing the hosting of large-scale sporting events within Sochi National Park, rare species of trees were logged in order to streamline construction. Organizers did not survey their construction sites ahead of time, and as a result, 3,000 hectares of forests were logged, disrupting migration routes and risking the survival of endangered animal populations³³ residing in the Mzymta River, Black Sea, and Aibga Mountain Range.

Tons of hazardous waste were also illegally dumped in “water protected zone[s],” endangering drinking water. Over 8,000 acres of Sochi National Park were cleared and while three new trees were planted for every tree chopped down, it was done in a manner that would not restore the impacted habitats.³⁴ Despite promises from Russian officials that Sochi would be a “zero waste” Olympics, many felt that choosing Sochi as the location was already setting organizers up to fail on this front. According to Simon Lewis, a sports sustainability consultant from the U.K., “If you look at the environmental footprint of hosting a Games—including things like travel, construction and

³¹ “Beijing Olympics 2008: An urban transformation,” United Nations, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?page=view&type=99&nr=252&menu=1449>

³² Pablo Eguiguren, “The 2008 Beijing Olympic Games: Spillover Effects on Air Quality and Health,” Chicago Policy Review, 2/12/2016, <https://chicagopolicyreview.org/2016/02/12/the-2008-beijing-olympic-games-spillover-effects-on-air-quality-and-health/>

³³ Igor Chestin, “Sochi Olympics have left a trail of environmental destruction,” The Conversation, 2/14/2014

³⁴ Laura Beans and Kevin Mathews, “4 Reasons the Sochi Olympics Are an Environmental Disaster,” 2/12/2014

hospitality—doing that halfway up a mountain in what is often a delicate and pristine environmental habitat is going to be difficult... Sochi should never have happened in that location. It was a poor decision by IOC members based on poor information.”³⁵

Even the Sydney Olympics in 2000, which were billed as the first Green Games, had its fair share of environmentally detrimental activities. While the Australians did utilize solar power and water conservation to a significant extent, the chemicals in the air conditioner and refrigerator have been known to destroy the ozone layer. The usage of PVC piping and carbon emissions from transportation still negatively impact the environment.³⁶

Humanitarian Concerns

Finally, and most importantly, is the matter of human rights. The IOC is committed to the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, and as such, requires that host countries are in alignment with internationally recognized standards for these rights. Furthermore, host cities must outline how they will protect the rights of workers, employees, athletes, journalists, and local communities.³⁷

Although these human rights protections from the IOC are relatively recent, the Olympics have a long history of serving as a forum for the advancement of human rights. Perhaps most outstanding is the example of Jesse Owens’ performance in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Hitler had bid for the Olympics intending to showcase both Nazi prowess and his belief in a racial hierarchy. His plans were dashed when Owens, a black American, won four gold medals to the applause of German spectators.

The Olympics have the potential to advance human rights across the globe; since 1936 this potential has been formally codified by the IOC in standards and policies that it requires for its participants and hosts. Unfortunately, many believe that the IOC has not done enough to protect human rights: how to protect athletes from discriminations against their race, gender, nationality, religion, sexual

³⁵ Kharunya Paramaguru, “The Not So Sustainable Sochi Winter Olympics,” *Time*, 1/30/2014, <https://time.com/2828/sochi-winter-olympics-environmental-damage/>

³⁶ “How Green Are the Aussie Games?” *Wired*, 9/15/2000, <https://www.wired.com/2000/09/how-green-are-the-aussie-games/>

³⁷ “Future Host Questionnaire,” International Olympic Committee, January 2021, https://stillmedab.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/Games/Future-Olympic-Hosts/Future-Host-Questionnaire-Olympic-Games.pdf#page=25&_ga=2.97030879.1177896064.1618845860-971153820.1601050134

orientation, or political beliefs in the host country? How to ensure that all workers and laborers involved in the Olympics are treated fairly, which includes no abuse, reasonable work hours, and fair and prompt wages? How to protect residents from being evicted out of their houses because the land will be converted to an Olympics venue? How to ensure that the host country honors freedom of speech and does not censor or arrest critics of local or national government to maintain a favorable public image?

Throughout the second half of the twentieth century there existed a cycle of human rights violations that have been tied to the Olympics, either tangentially via issues with host nations, or directly relating to the games themselves. While human rights for their own sake are clearly more important, their violation also creates practical problems for the IOC such as countries refusing to send athletes to the host country alleged of human rights violation, and major Olympics directors stepping down in protest.

As it stands now, the language regarding human rights requirements for potential hosts is insufficient. While host nations are required to prevent human rights abuses and outline plans on how to improve existing conditions, there is little in the IOC's existing literature to ensure that these commitments are honored. Monitoring and implementation are thus the major challenges.

The IOC is in a difficult position both morally and practically as it must honor its commitments to human rights while also striving to stay neutral in political matters and select cities out of a dwindling field of bidders. American skier Mikaela Shiffrin perhaps put it best when she explained, "You certainly don't want to be put in the position of having to choose between human rights like morality versus being able to do your job."³⁸

³⁸ "Full-blown boycott pushed for in 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing," ESPN, 5/17/2021, https://www.espn.com/olympics/story/_/id/31459936/full-blown-boycott-pushed-2022-winter-olympics-beijing

Past Actions & Possible Solutions

Environmental Concerns

Past Actions

The IOC began taking its responsibility to the environment seriously in the 1990s. What began with tepid statements of support culminated with two major actions: the formation of the Sport and Environment Commission, an advisory body of the IOC, and an official amendment of the IOC charter in 1996, addressing the importance of the environment to the games.³⁹ Commenting on these actions, the IOC said “[we] consider the environment as an integral dimension of Olympus, alongside sport and culture.”⁴⁰ The IOC has continued to provide a focus on the environment. In 1999, the IOC Session adopted Agenda 21 of the Olympic Movement, a document containing guidelines meant to encourage sustainability in the Olympics. This was later followed by the *IOC Guide to Sport, Environment and Sustainable Development* which is meant to provide practical methods to achieve the IOC’s environmental goals. Most recently, as was discussed earlier in the History of the Problem section, sustainability was established as one of the three pillars of the Olympic Agenda in 2020.⁴¹

The IOC makes significant efforts to ensure that its environmental standards are met in practice. When a city applies to host the games, its representative must complete a questionnaire which includes several areas regarding the city’s adherence to IOC’s environmental and sustainability guidelines. These questionnaires must then be reviewed by an “Evaluation Committee.”⁴² Further, once a host city is elected, the IOC Coordination Commission provides it with guidance and assistance in its planning. In recent years this selection process has been bolstered by the Olympic Games Impact (OGI) study which aims to analyze the impact that potential games may have on their host city and host communities. The IOC’s overall approach to the environmental aspect of its games

³⁹ IOC. *FACTSHEET THE ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT*. 2014, stillmed.olympic.org/media/Document%20Library/OlympicOrg/Factsheets-Reference-Documents/Environment/Factsheet-The-Environment-and-Sustainable-Development-January-2014.pdf.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Ibid.

⁴² Ibid.

is perhaps best summarized by the following statement, “The ultimate objective is to bequeath a positive Olympic Games legacy to the host city, its region and its country, in which the positive impact outweighs any negative one.”⁴³

Possible Solutions

Conduct OGI Studies Before Selection

Currently, the OGI study is only conducted during and after a city holds the Olympics. This provides valuable insight into the effects that the Olympics had, and while it may be beneficial for future games it is a reactive rather than proactive measure. If the IOC and its partners complete these studies before host city elections begin, they would provide the Session with valuable information to consider as they choose a host city. Unfortunately, not only is this measure open to fraud, it would most likely make the bidding process far more complicated.

Rotate the Olympics Among a Set of the Same Cities

In order to reduce the environmental impact of the Olympics, a group of cities could be chosen as permanent (or semi-permanent) hosts. The Olympics could then be rotated among these cities sequentially. This would allow infrastructure, like stadiums, pools, and even public transit, to be reused, lessening the environmental costs of the games.⁴⁴ However, while this is a promising method to protect the environment, it would fundamentally change the nature of the games, lessening the diversity of hosts and reducing the global reach of the Olympics.

Reduce the Size of the Olympics

Many of the most costly environmental impacts of the games result from their gargantuan size: massive stadiums must be constructed to hold spectators, new infrastructure must be built to handle an influx of tourists and participants, and millions of tons of CO₂ are released to power it all. By

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Müller, Martin, et al. “An Evaluation of the Sustainability of the Olympic Games.” *Nature News*, Nature Publishing Group, 19 Apr. 2021, www.nature.com/articles/s41893-021-00696-5.

reducing the size of the games, especially the number of tourists visiting the games in person, a rapid reduction in environmental costs could be achieved relatively quickly. Supporters of this policy argue that its negative effects could be mitigated by relying on the TV rights for the event, but opponents hold that this would allay some of the primary reasons for hosting the Olympics: attracting tourism, boosting city revenues, and creating connections across countries and continents.⁴⁵

Economic Concerns

Past Actions

As has been explained, hosting the Olympics is no small task, and while cities often host the Olympics in the hope of boosting their economies, the Olympics have not generated a profit for their host since 1984. The economic dilemma of hosting the Olympics has lowered the diversity of Olympic hosts and left some hosts in debt, their facilities in disrepair.

Past IOC actions on economic concerns are limited given the IOC's relationship to host cities. The IOC's interests lie in ensuring the games occur, but not necessarily in ensuring the host city benefits from them. When many cities bid to host the Olympics the IOC gains a favorable negotiating position and is able to extract more revenue from the eventual host.⁴⁶ This has led to fewer and fewer cities placing bids to host the Olympics, and in 1972 the city of Denver rejected its successful bid after voters passed a referendum refusing to spend public funds on the games.⁴⁷ Despite their massive costs, it is entirely possible for the games to be profitable and beneficial to host cities. In 1984, the last games that were profitable for their host, Los Angeles was able to negotiate a beneficial revenue deal with the IOC as it was the only city that had applied to host the Olympics.⁴⁸ What this shows is that the Olympics are not unprofitable in aggregate. Yet, cities lose money because the IOC is incentivised to keep as much of the profits as possible for itself (see fig.1 and fig. 2).

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ "The Economics of Hosting the Olympic Games." *Council on Foreign Relations*, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/economics-hosting-olympic-games.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

Broadcast Revenue From Olympic Television Rights Fees

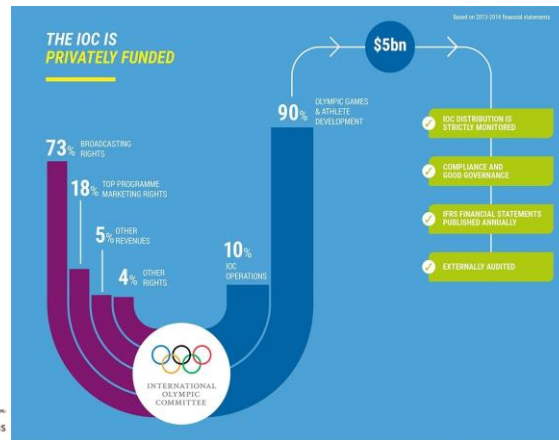
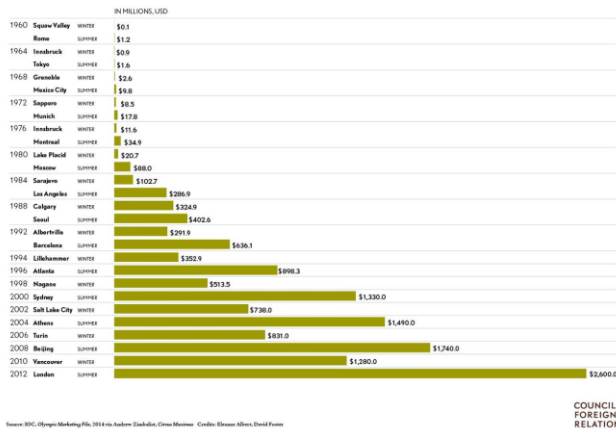


Figure 1⁴⁹

Figure 2⁵⁰

Possible Solutions

Modify the Current Bidding Process

As it stands today, the Olympic bidding process favors the most drastic and grand proposals submitted. This leads cities to spend millions presenting pricey plans to impress the IOC and then suffering the so called “winner’s curse” in which the city that wins the bid must then implement their often overblown proposal.⁵¹ If the bidding process is modified to favor cities with a positive human rights record that present economical and environmentally friendly proposals, this concern could be mitigated significantly. However, these modifications may stand at odds with both the IOC’s incentive to host the Olympics in cities willing to make large investments (regardless of their human rights records) or cities’ incentives to impress the IOC (regardless of its environmental or economic costs).

Require the IOC to Assist Cities with Olympic Debt

After it hosted the Olympics, the city of Montreal was strapped with debt for 30 years. While host cities rarely make money from the Olympics, the IOC always does. If IOC policy was modified to bar

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ “IOC - Overview.” *International Olympic Committee*, 27 Apr. 2021, olympics.com/ioc/funding.

⁵¹ Ibid.

the organization from receiving revenue when the host city retains debt, the most drastic of the economic concerns could be limited. However, the IOC is a non-profit organization, so about 90% of its revenue is diverted to fund both the event and, more significantly, programs for youth sports, underprivileged athletes, and sports education.⁵² If funds are withheld from the IOC to support host cities, these programs would ultimately suffer.

Collective Bargaining

Currently, revenue distribution is negotiated by the IOC and each host city individually. Thus when few cities bid for the Olympics they are able to negotiate better deals, and when there are many cities interested in hosting the Olympics, the eventual winner will undoubtedly receive a worse deal. To solve this problem and ensure that developing nations get a better chance at hosting the Olympics, nations could collectively bargain during the IOC Session, i.e. they all agree on a minimum share of the revenues that they expect to retain during the games. In principle this approach could be very effective; however, it could easily be shattered by cities who care less about economic gain since they may opt out of the negotiation and offer a larger share of revenue to the IOC to win the bid.

Human Rights Concerns

Past Actions

Human rights concerns are perhaps the most important issues that the IOC must address as it continues to promote the Olympics. While the IOC is a staunch supporter of human rights, at least on paper, many of its host cities and countries have not shared this view. The ultimate goals of the Olympics, as articulated by the IOC, “are to cultivate human beings, through sport, and contribute to world peace.”⁵³ Yet, this goal is at odds with the human rights record of many of the IOC’s partners

⁵² “IOC - Overview.” *International Olympic Committee*, 27 Apr. 2021, olympics.com/ioc/funding.

⁵³ *About The Olympic Games / Information about Olympic Games / 2020 Games Preparation / Bureau of Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games Preparation*, www.2020games.metro.tokyo.lg.jp/eng/taikaijyunbi/olympic/olympic/index.html.

and many in the international community view the IOC's actions as complicit in these violations as hosting the games often legitimizes a regime on the world stage.

Although peace has been at the core of the IOC since its founding, the IOC has only begun to implement steps to ensure human rights in recent years. As of 2018, the IOC is working on creating an internal body to advise it on human rights, and as of 2024 countries will be required to answer questions regarding human rights record on their bid questionnaire.⁵⁴ The IOC has also started working with National Olympic Committees to ensure that people of all groups are able to participate in the games. However, according to many activists and organizations like Human Rights Watch, these measures have fallen short of their intended goal, as some countries alleged of human rights violations are still selected as host nations. Thus, while the IOC isn't afraid to stand up for human rights on paper or in speeches, there is a major disconnect between its human rights goals and its actions.

Possible Solutions

Create a Human Rights Impact Study and Human Rights Goals for Hosts

Currently, the IOC conducts impact studies on host cities during and after the games. These impact studies include many factors such as environmental, economic, and community impacts that result from the games. If a similar human rights impact study was to take place before the host bidding process, human rights information about potential hosts could be provided both to the IOC and to the Session as its members elect the next host.

It is no secret that not every country meets global standards like the *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. However, rather than excluding these countries a set of goals or requirements could be added as conditions to host the Olympics. Just as a city is required to have tracks or pools for the Olympics, it could be required to remove press censorship or invest in its disadvantages to communities in order to host the games. While this policy may provide an incentive

⁵⁴ IOC. "IOC Moves Forward with Its Human Rights Approach - Olympic News." *International Olympic Committee*, IOC, 13 July 2021, olympics.com/ioc/news/ioc-moves-forward-with-its-human-rights-approach.

to improve human rights during the Olympics, there is little incentive to continue these improvements once the Olympics conclude.

Ban Nations With Human Rights Violations

In the mid 1900s, the South African government practiced the policy of apartheid, or separation of racial groups. This policy was codified in sports when the government refused to allow people of different races to compete against each other. This led many members of the international community to call on the IOC to ban South Africa from participating in the Olympics. Although the IOC was reluctant to do so, hoping to maintain a separation between politics and sports, they eventually relented and banned South Africa. A decade after this ban was put in place, the South African government repealed this policy in order to begin participating in the Olympics once again. Eventually, South Africa would completely remove its policy of apartheid.⁵⁵

As perhaps one of the more drastic solutions to the current human rights issues the Olympics face, this policy could be replicated today. Banning nations from participating in the games or hosting the games based on their human rights records could encourage them to make changes to their domestic policies. Nevertheless, the IOC was (and still is) reluctant to mix sports and politics.⁵⁶ Pursuing this course of action risks alienating many nations and could block many talented and hard-working athletes from participating in the games. Further, a standard of human rights would have to be agreed upon and applied to this policy, which is no small feat. If pursued incorrectly this policy would not only fail to improve human rights, it would likely cause the modern Olympics to disintegrate.

⁵⁵ Liu, Julie H. *Lighting the Torch of Human Rights: The Olympic Games as a Vehicle for Human Rights Reform*. 2007, scholarlycommons.law.northwestern.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1053&context=njihr.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

Bloc Positions

In Topic A, we consider a wide range of issues and many possible solutions, thus there will likely be many blocs with varied ideas on how best to approach these issues. In official discourse, few nations will say that they are opposed to protecting the environment, creating sustainable economic conditions, or furthering human rights; however, there will likely be divisions over the scale and strictness of any proposed criterion. Additionally, it is important to recognize that the Olympics have not produced a profit for their host cities or countries in many years, thus in analyzing bloc positions it is important to consider a nation's true motivation for hosting the Olympics at all. Finally, as a general note, please know that these blocs are by no means all inclusive. They are only intended to give a rough outline of some of the major ideological divisions that we expect to occur in Topic A. Not every country in a given group will hold the same opinion on many of the issues of debate. Some nations may adopt a policy with elements of every bloc position or none at all.

Developed Nations

The first bloc will likely include the United States, many members of the European Union, Japan, and Australia among others. These nations boast powerful economies, and thus are frequent hosts of the Olympics. Further, the robust infrastructure in these nations makes them ideal candidates to host the Olympics, and as many of these nations have previously hosted the Olympics, they also have the ability to reuse Olympic infrastructure. This may be especially true for Los Angeles which hosted the Olympics in 1984 and will be hosting them again in 2028. Further, these nations generally support strong protections for the environment. Finally, many of these nations see themselves as global defenders of human rights, and they are likely to propose more stringent human rights criteria in the course of the debate. The combination of well-developed infrastructure, strong economies, and wide public support for the environment and human rights will likely lead these nations to support a strict set of criteria for hosting the Olympics.

Developing Nations

The second major bloc in this topic consists of countries who have the capability to host the Olympics now but likely would lose this capability if new criteria were added. Although it includes

many nations, this bloc is best exemplified by the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa). Many of the nations in this bloc have impressed the IOC with their willingness to invest large sums of money and resources to host extravagant games. Nevertheless, members of this bloc haven't always presented environmentally friendly or economically prudent designs and their human rights records haven't always been clean. Simply put, many countries would fail to meet more robust human rights, environmental, or economic qualifications. Thus, more stringent criteria would likely be opposed. In other words, while these countries may be open to a discourse on addressing these concerns, they will likely only support loose criteria.

That being said, a potential failure to meet certain qualifications is not the only reason that nations may find themselves opposing them. Any proposed criteria required to host the Olympics will likely be opposed for two reasons: potential infringement of national sovereignty and concerns over the limited diversity of Olympic host nations (which will be discussed at length in the next section). As for the former, sovereignty is a key issue that is often at odds with international agreements in the United Nations. The IOC is no different. The Olympics are a unique event as they are both highly international while being remarkably domestic. The stadiums, pools, tracks, and villages that athletes from all over the world will eventually use must be built and maintained by national governments and their local communities. Many of these governments will argue that the IOC and its member nations have no business imposing their will on sovereign nations. For example, what right do delegates from the United States or Russia have to tell the citizens of Milan, Italy how they should manage their economy and environment when they host the Olympics in 2026?

Underdeveloped Nations

While a rather broad classification for a large group of countries, in this context underdeveloped nations can be taken to mean countries with economies unable to support the massive undertaking that the Olympics typically requires. For these nations, the most prohibitive aspect of any proposed criteria will be environmental and economic. If approached without care, IOC criteria would effectively bar any of these nations from hosting the games. However, frankly, very few nations within this group have even bid to host the games at all (with a notable exception being Azerbaijan, which has proposed its Capital, Baku, in two of the last four bids). The fact that many of these

developing nations are unwilling or unable to host the Olympics gives them a fair degree of freedom in this debate. This freedom will cause the agendas of these nations to diverge, with some choosing to support other nations for reasons unrelated to the Olympics, some attempting to create conditions favorable to their future as Olympic hosts, and others using this as a forum to advocate their domestic interests and aspirations. This may result in a nation like Azerbaijan advocating loose economic criteria that will aid it in finally getting to host the Olympics or a nation like Somalia, reliant on foreign aid, advocating criteria to aid its overseas benefactors.

The Olympics is designed to involve everyone; however, in practice, the Olympics have not been very international, at least as far as its hosts go. In the last 50 years, only 18 nations have hosted the games.⁵⁷ Notably, the Olympics have never been hosted on the African continent and have only been hosted once in South America.⁵⁸ This is mainly due to the economic and logistical challenges that the Olympics entail. For many nations, adding more items to the list of qualifications will only compound the difficulty that goes with hosting the Olympics, further contributing to the trend of a small group of nations becoming repeat hosts.

⁵⁷ "List of Olympic Host Cities." *Architecture of the Games*, 28 June 2020, architectureofthegames.net/olympic-host-cities/.

⁵⁸ Ibid.

Glossary

Bloc: a combination of countries, parties, or groups sharing a common purpose

IOC: International Olympic Committee

National Olympic Committee: The national constituent of the worldwide Olympic movement

Olympic Movement: The concerted, organized, universal and permanent action, carried out under the supreme authority of the IOC, of all individuals and entities who are inspired by the values of Olympism. The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced in accordance with Olympism and its values. Belonging to the Olympic Movement requires compliance with the Olympic Charter and recognition by the IOC.

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